



29 Palms Airspace Establishment Over Newly Acquired Lands:

Information Brief



Sept 25, 2015





Overview

- **29 Palms Expansion Project**
 - Purpose & Need
 - Study Areas
 - Land Acquisition
- **Special Use Airspace (SUA) Expansion**
 - Surrounding Airspace
 - Airspace Challenge
 - SUA Proposal Requests
 - Permanent/Temporary/CFA
 - Proposal Review
- **Summary**
- **Questions**





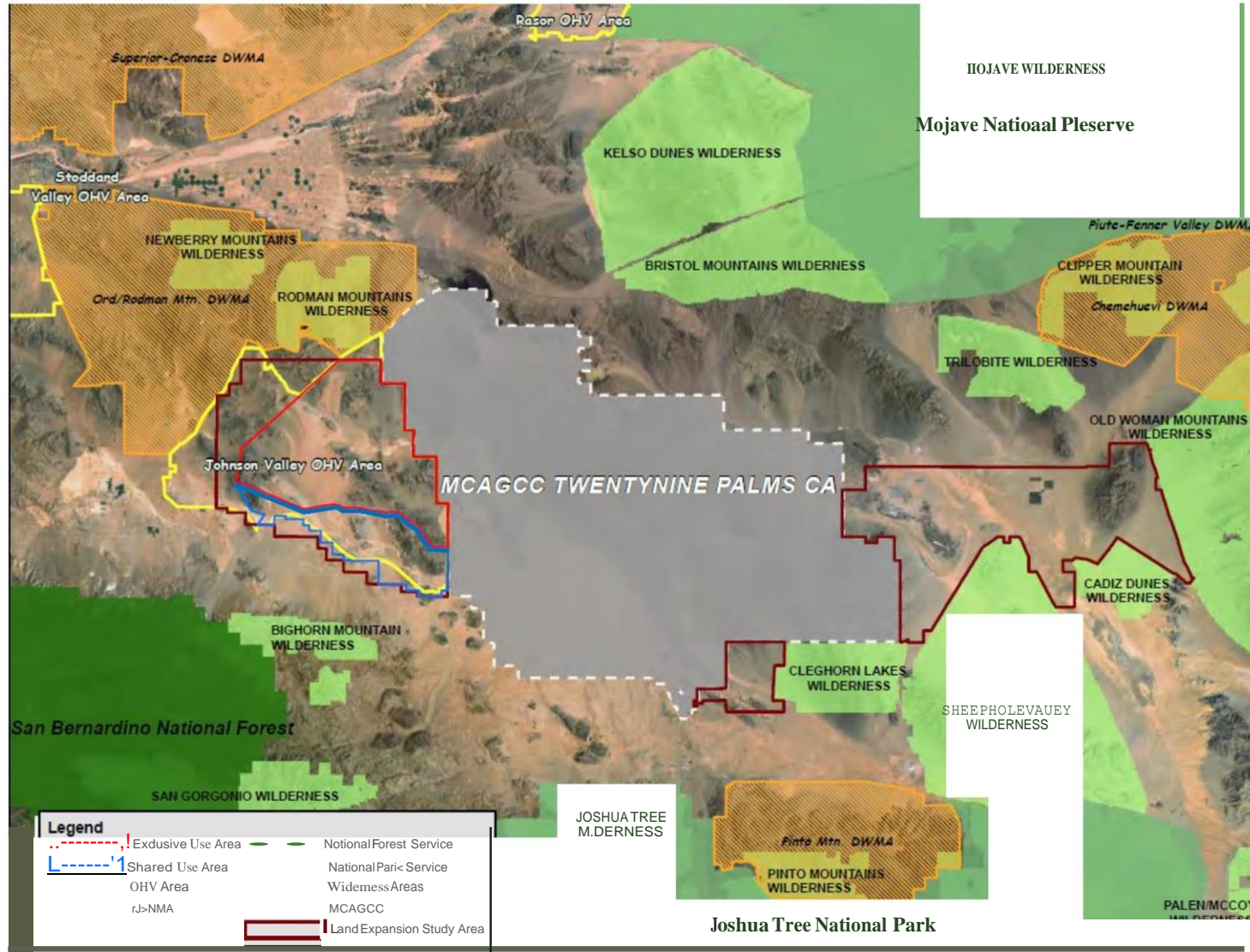
29 Palms Expansion Project: Purpose and Need



- **Purpose**: Fulfill the Marine Corps requirement to provide sustained, combined-arms live-fire, and maneuver field training for Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) sized Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs).
 - ***Marine Corps Strategy 21 (2000)***: MEB is the primary contingency response force.
 - ***Universal Needs Statement (2002)***: Identified need for training area and facility to conduct realistic, live-fire training for all elements of MEB-sized MAGTF.
 - ***Center for Naval Analyses (2004)***: Analyzed MEB training requirements and conducted nationwide study of potentially suitable locations.
 - ▶ CNA identified Combat Center as the only location that could meet the MEB training requirement, but only if it were expanded.
- **Need**: Existing facilities, ranges and live-fire ground and air maneuver areas are inadequate to support the requirement for MEB-sized training exercises.
 - ***OSD Reports to Congress (2004-2014)***: Acknowledged that “the Marine Corps does not have a range capable of supporting MEB-sized fire and maneuver combined-arms exercises.”
 - ***MROC (Nov 2006)***: Approved Universal Need Statement (UNS) for Large-Scale MAGTF Training Area.



Study Areas & Surrounding lands



Note: Shared Use Area is now called {{Restricted Public Access Area}}



29 Palms Expansion Project

- **Making a Decision:** After evaluating nearly 20,000 comments on the FEIS and considering the FEIS along with costs and mission training requirements, the Secretary of the Navy published the Record of Decision (ROD) on February 15, 2013.
 - The ROD selected a modified Alternative 6 as the alternative to meet MEB training requirements, with a recommendation for mitigation developed in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management.
 - The Department of the Navy submitted an application to Congress for withdrawal of public lands.
- **Congressional Withdrawal:** In December of 2013, Congress passed and the President signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2014, authorizing the withdrawal of approximately 151,000 acres of federal land to accommodate MEB training requirements.
 - The Congressional withdrawal expanded MCAGCC by 97,697 acres designating an Exclusive Military Use Area, allotted a 53,231 acre Shared Use Area available for public use 10 months of the year when not in use for military training, and designated approximately 43,431 acres as the Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area (JVOHVRA) for year-round public recreation.



Airspace Challenge



FAA Air Traffic Control Facilities must work around a large amount of SUA in the SW Region in support of major metropolitan areas while optimizing flight paths and climb/descent profiles to maximize efficiency. [Green Lines represent flights in 24 hours]

The USMC has been working on this proposal with the FAA since 2009

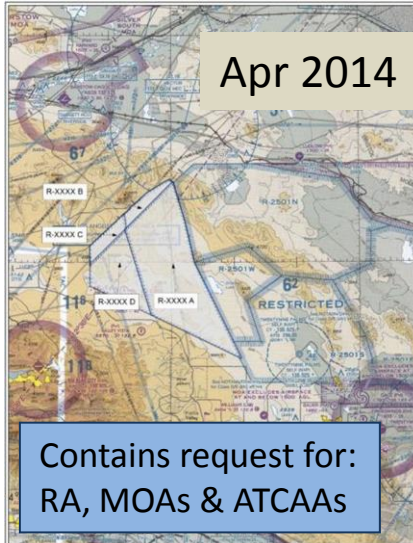


MCAGCC SUA Expansion

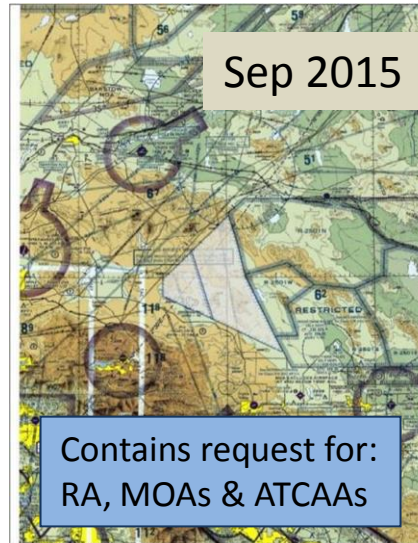
Currently 3 Types of SUA Proposals Underway



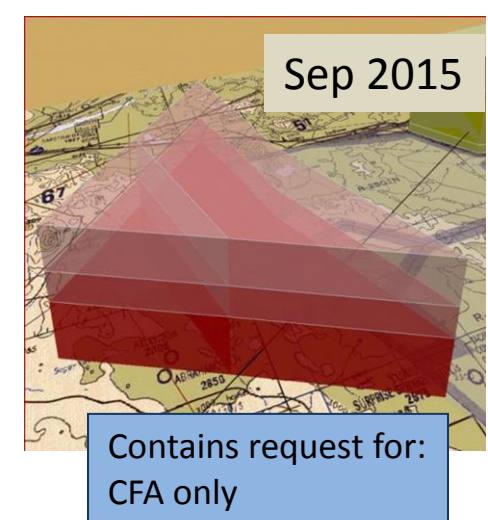
Permanent SUA Proposal



Temporary SUA Proposal



Controlled Firing Area (CFA) Proposal



Types of Airspace Used or Potentially Used at MCAGCC

Restricted Area (RA): Non-military aircraft are prohibited from entering during military training activities that involve live fire; MCAGCC releases RA for use by all aircraft in the National Airspace System when not needed for military training.

Military Operations Area (MOA): A MOA is airspace designated outside of Class A airspace (18,000 – 60,000 feet) to separate or segregate certain nonhazardous military activities from Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) traffic and to identify for Visual Flight Rule (VFR) traffic where these activities are conducted.

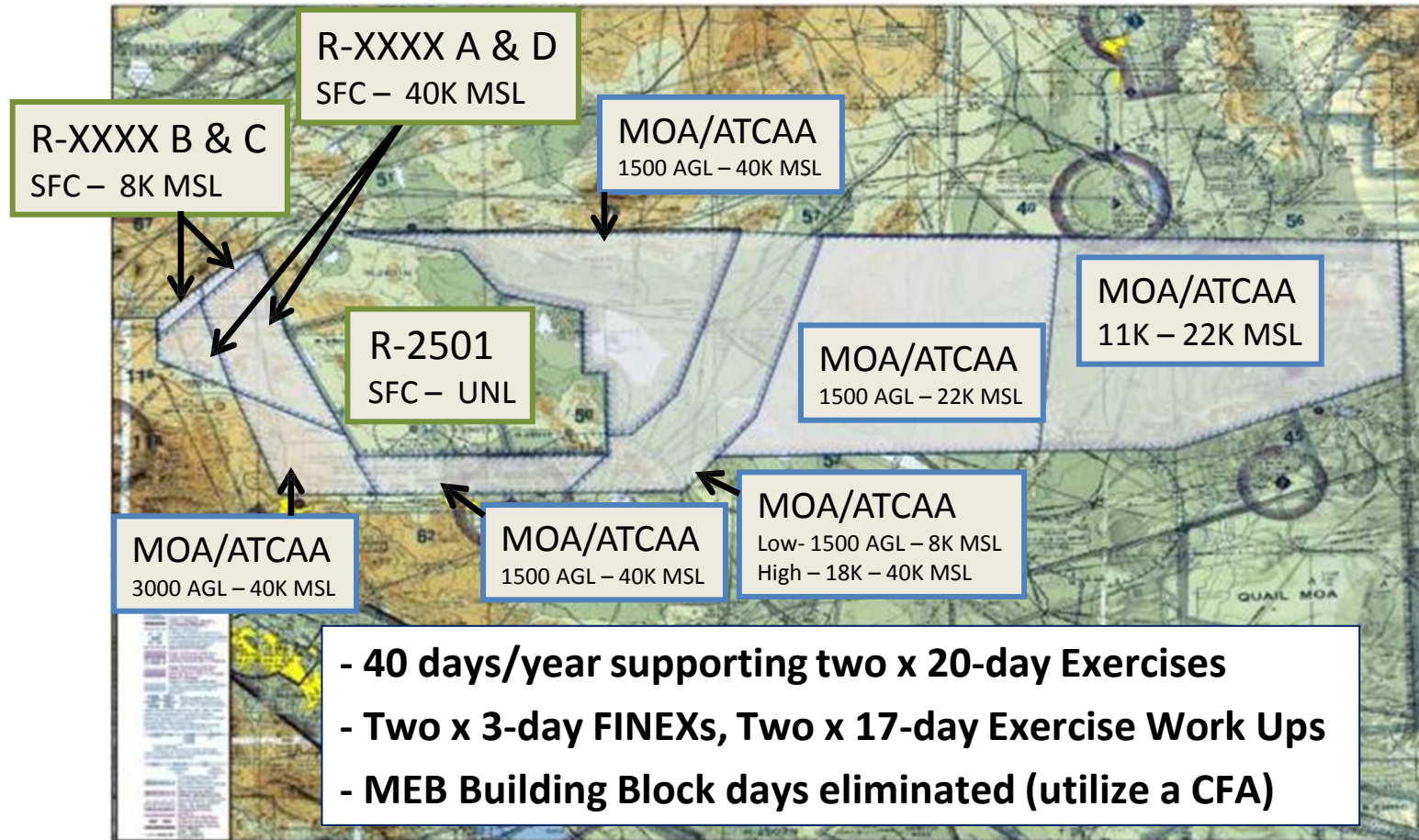
Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA): Similar to a MOA (and usually overlying a MOA) within Class A airspace, only non-hazardous military activities may be undertaken in ATCAA.

Controlled Firing Area (CFA): This is airspace designated to contain activities that if not conducted in a controlled environment would be hazardous to nonparticipating aircraft. CFAs provide a means to accommodate, without impact to aviation, certain hazardous activities that can be immediately suspended if a nonparticipating aircraft approaches the area.



Permanent SUA Request

Original Proposal Submitted: April 2014

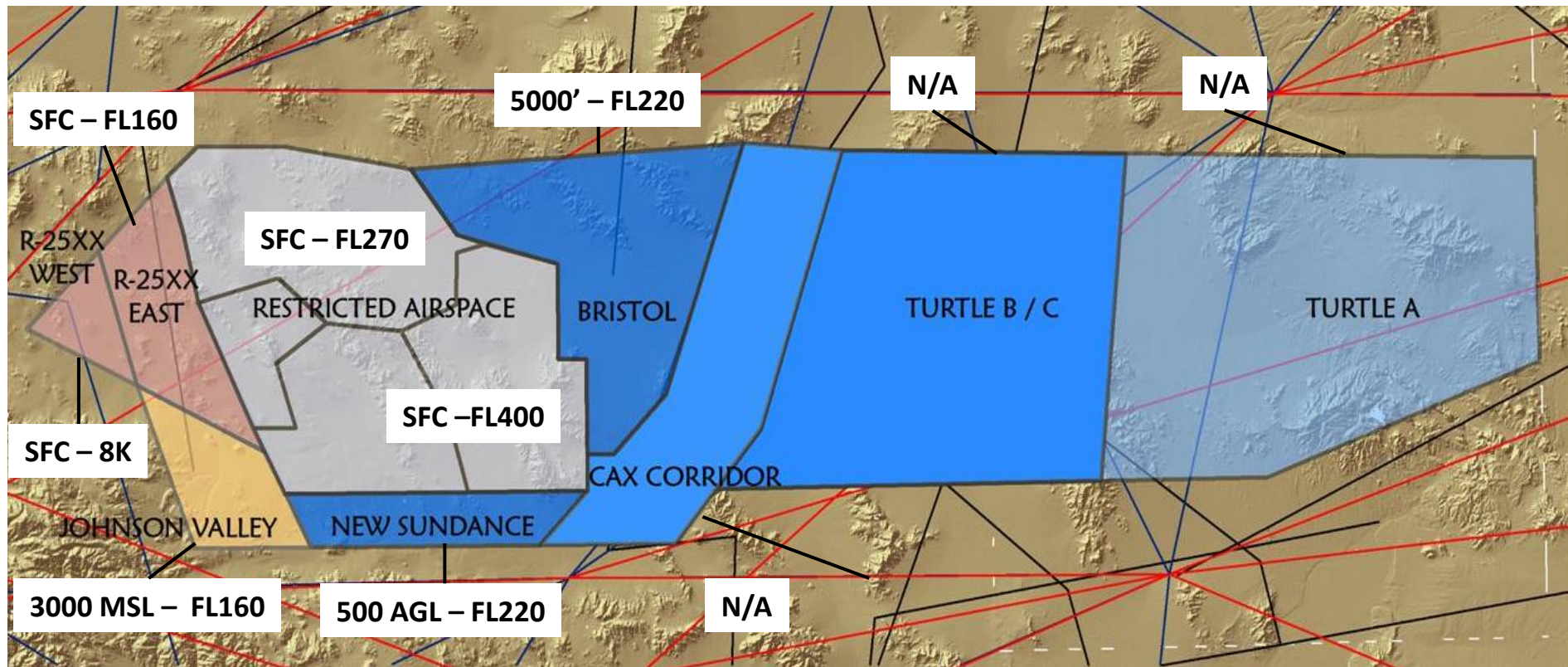


- Utilization of RA and MOAs limited to 28 days/year FL180, 6 days/year FL270, 6 days/year FL400 max.
- Utilization of MOA airspace below 5,000' MSL is confined to only 16 days. (2 x 8 days each time)



Temp SUA Request

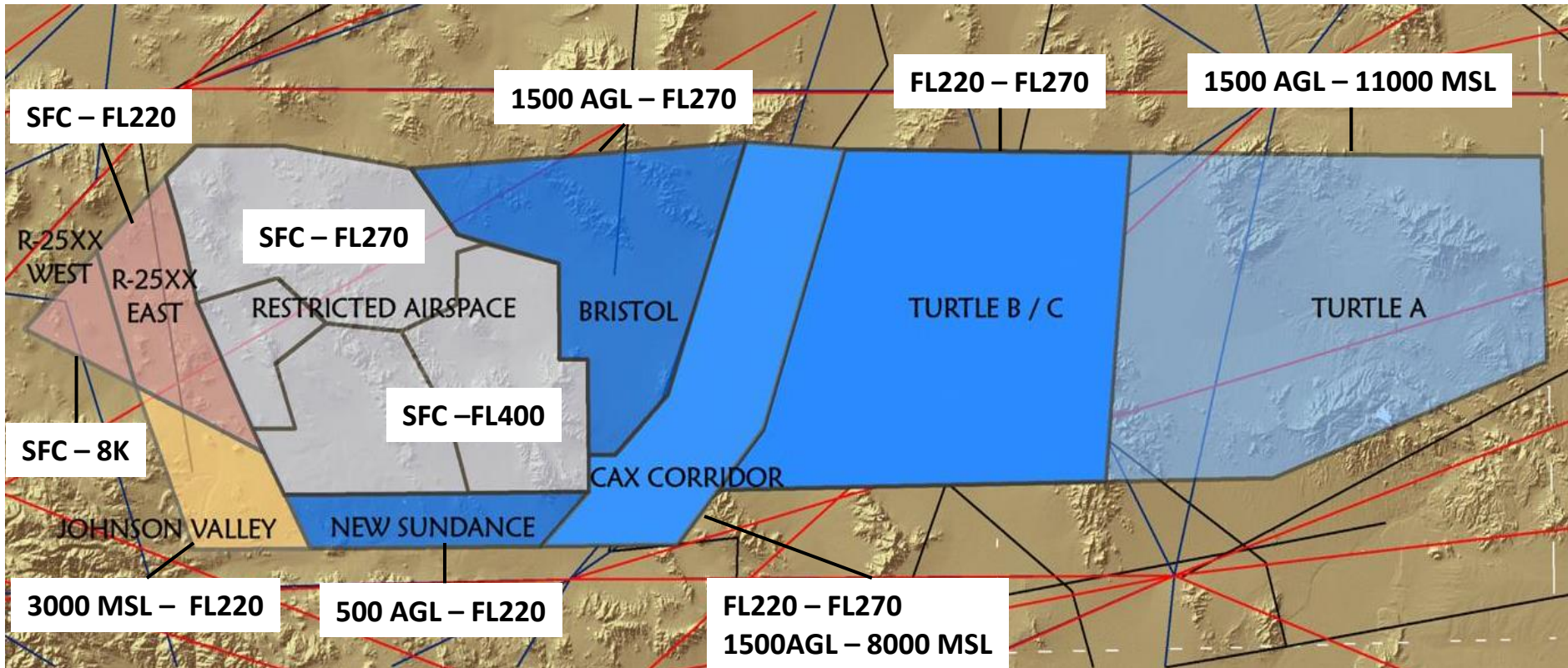
Temp SUA Proposal for LSE 2016 (1-11 Aug) - Accepted: Feb 2016





Temp SUA Request

Temp SUA Proposal for LSE 2016 (13-18 Aug) - Accepted: Feb 2016





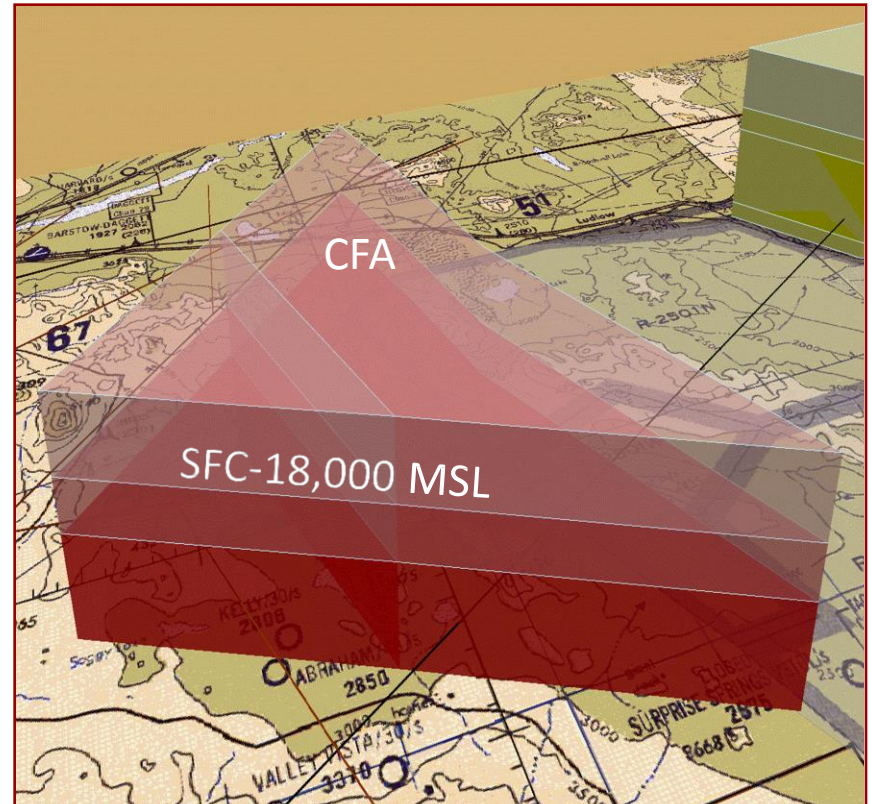
Controlled Firing Area (CFA) Request

MEB Building Block Training



CFA Proposal - Submitted: Sept 2015

- CFA: Activities must be suspended immediately when a nonparticipating aircraft approaches the area.
 - Direct & Indirect Fire Ground Weapons Systems only - Demolitions, hand grenade use, and live fire from; pistols, rifles, machine guns, mortars, tanks, and artillery
 - No Aviation Fires
- CFA supports MEB Building Block training in newly acquired lands
 - 200 days/year
 - Separate and distinct from proposed SUA for MEBEX
- Surface to 18,000 feet MSL (approx. 15,000 feet AGL)
- Only Activated to the altitude necessary
- De-activated daily upon training completion

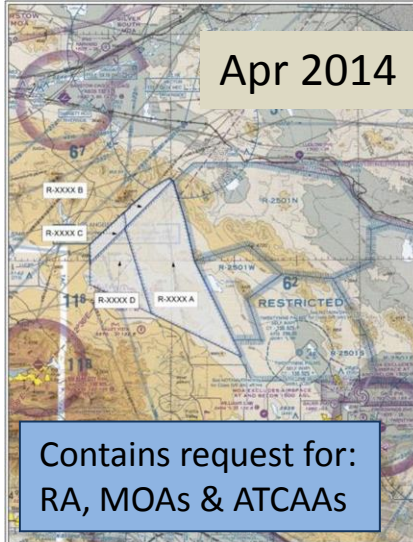




Review of the 3 SUA Proposals



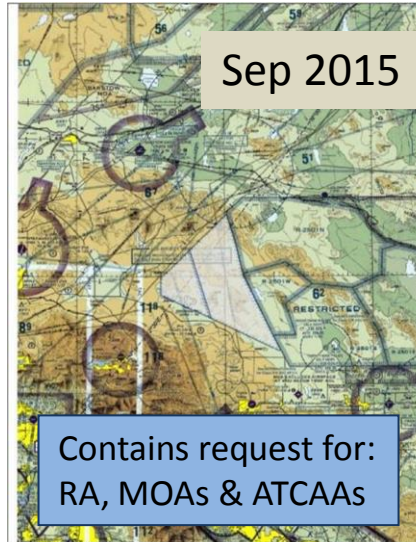
Permanent SUA Proposal



- 40 days/year - Supports Two x 20-day Exercises
- Two x 3-day FINEXs Two x 17-day Exercise Work Ups
- MEB Building Block days eliminated (utilize the CFA)

- Accommodates all LSE live fire and Combined Arms training

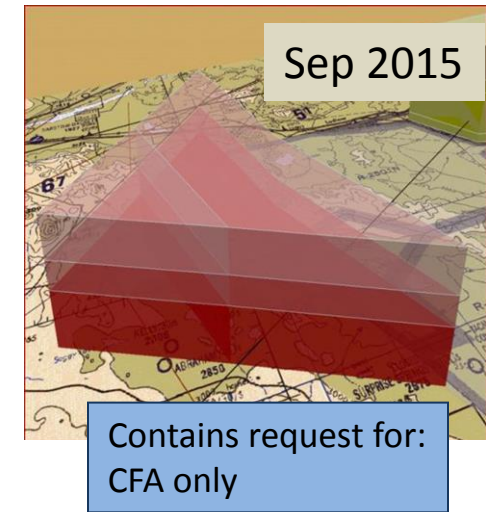
Temporary SUA Proposal



- Supports LSE 2016 (Aug 16) One 19-day Exercise
- 3-day FINEX & 16-day Exercise Work Ups
- MEB Building Block days eliminated (utilize the CFA)

- Accommodates all LSE 16 live fire & Combined Arms training

Controlled Firing Area (CFA)



- 200 Days per year (10 Months) supporting MEB Building Blocks
- SFC-18,000' MSL (15K AGL)
- Activated/De-Activated Daily

- Accommodates direct and indirect ground fires only.
- Must cease fire when A/C approaches



Summary

- The Marine Corps is working with the FAA to acquire permanent additional joint-use SUA above these new lands to meet the MEBEX training requirement which will be used no more than two one-month periods each year.
- Gaining permanent joint-use SUA can take several years to complete; therefore, temporary measures are being pursued to accommodate a MEB Large Scale Exercise (LSE) in August 2016.
- The Temporary SUA proposal to support LSE 16 is for no more than 18 days.
- The Temporary SUA will be activated only in support of the planned LSE.
- The Temporary SUA will be described and activated via Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and may also be circularized and/or published in the same manner as Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) notices.
- During the remainder of the year, not to exceed 200 days; the airspace directly over the new lands of the MCAGCC training range complex would be under a planned Controlled Firing Area (CFA) which will not impact civilian or commercial aviation.



- QUESTIONS -

